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**Letter dated 17 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to forward herewith the statement of the Government of the Republic of Rwanda on the situation in Uvira, Democratic Republic of the Congo (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Anastase **Gasana**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 17 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

## Statement on the situation in Uvira, Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda would like to express grave concern over the developments in Uvira, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

There is evidence of heavy movements of troops in the area. About 10 military boats mounted with Katyusha rocket launchers and other armaments on Lake Tanganyika were used to attack Uvira.

The ex-FAR and Interahamwe are the major force operating in and around Uvira. The Mai Mai are a smoke screen to give this new offensive by the Kinshasa Government a semblance of logic.

The continued movement of these genocidal forces towards our border poses a threat to the security of Rwanda and the whole region and is in blatant violation of both the Lusaka and Pretoria agreements.

We would like to remind the international community that Rwanda fulfilled all its obligations and has fully withdrawn from the Congo, according to the terms of the Lusaka and Pretoria agreements.

We challenge the third parties to fulfil their mandate by ensuring that all parties respect their obligations and to condemn in clear terms this violation of the above agreements.

Furthermore, we deeply regret the silence and lack of appropriate response to this situation by the international community.

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda is closely monitoring the situation and expects a response from all who share the concern for security in the Great Lakes region.

The Government of Rwanda reserves the right to defend the country against the ex-FAR and Interahamwe and it intends to choose the most appropriate way to do that, when the right time comes.

Done at Kigali, 16 October 2002